



## **News Release**

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### **City Plans Initiative to Improve Neighborhoods**

**ROCKFORD, III.** – Mayor McNamara announced today a new initiative that will launch next month to improve neighborhoods throughout the City. The Neighborhood Improvement Initiative focuses on our people and places by connecting residents with resources and implementing plans to improve the environment.

Throughout the spring and summer, City Staff will focus on six select neighborhood areas that have been negatively impacted by violent crime and could benefit tremendously from being better connected to community resources and services. One neighborhood at a time, employees will assess the neighborhood and the needs of residents in that specific area.

Then, a team of employees and representatives from community partners will bring resources directly to the neighborhood and our residents' doorsteps during a focused workday. This includes connecting residents with energy assistance programs, enrolling children and families in on our head start program, and distributing smoke detectors – to name just a few. Additionally, we are teaming up with more than 20 organizations to provide resources focused on filling essential needs – including medical, mental health, disability, senior and youth services, lighting, and home repair services. At the same time, we will be improving the overall environment, including sidewalks and streetlights. At the end of the workday, residents will come together at a block party for food, fun, and creating more connections. It's all an effort to build relationships with and between residents, improve the neighborhood, provide hope to our residents and reduce crime.

Neighborhood Workdays –

- **Friday, April 22:** Area bordered by Albert, School, Central, and Mulberry
- **Friday, May 20:** Area bordered by N. Horsman, Whitman, Woodlawn, and Locust
- **Friday, June 17:** Area bordered by Winnebago, Whitman, N. Court, and Locust
- **Saturday, July 16:** Area bordered by Broadway, Kishwaukee, the railroad tracks, and 8<sup>th</sup> St
- **Saturday, August 20:** Area bordered by West Middle School, Kenmore Ave, the alley east of Kilburn, and Custer Ave
- **Friday, September 23:** Lincoln and Island Streets from S. Main to Custer

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